

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 A-01 OC-06
CPR-01 SY-05 NSC-05 PA-01 /045 W
-----023969 150058Z /63
R 150016Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9554

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.), MX
SUBJECT: SECRETARY VANCE'S SPEECH AT ROEL
LUNCHEON

REF: STATE 01318

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT OF SECRETARY VANCE'S
SPEECH AT MAY 4 LUNCHEON HOSTED BY SECRETARY ROEL:
QUOTE.

2. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN MEXICO CITY ENJOYING THE HOS-
PITALITY OF MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, FOREIGN SECRETARY
SANTIAGO ROEL. I AM SOMEWHAT JEALOUS OF HIS ABILITY TO
LOOK DOWN FROM HIS OFFICE AT THE PANORAMA OF MEXICAN
HISTORY DISPLAYED IN THE PLAZA OF THE THREE CULTURES.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT BY MY COLLEAGUES AND ME IS
TO REVIEW WITH OUR MEXICAN HOSTS THE WORK DONE BY THE
CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM. INSTITUTED A LITTLE LESS THAN A
YEAR AGO, THE MECHANISM IS BASED ON THE PROPOSAL MADE BY
PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHING-
TON IN FEBRUARY 1977. BOTH AS CO-CHAIRMEN
OF THE POLITICAL WORKING GROUP AND AS FOREIGN SECRETARIES
OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, SECRETARY ROEL AND I HAVE BEEN
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IN FREQUENT CONTACT ON QUESTIONS OF BILATERAL INTEREST
AND IMPORTANCE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS DURING THE PAST
FIFTEEN MONTHS.

4. I HOPE YOU WILL EXCUSE MY GOING PHILOSOPHICAL ON YOU
FOR A FEW MOMENTS THIS AFTERNOON. WHEN THE AMERICAN
WRITER AND NATURALIST HENRY DAVID THOREAU WAS TOLD THAT A

TELEGRAPHIC LINK WAS TO BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN TEXAS AND MAINE, HE OBSERVED: "WE ARE IN A GREAT RUSH TO ESTABLISH INSTANT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TEXAS AND MAINE. BUT HOW DO WE KNOW THAT TEXAS AND MAINE HAVE ANYTHING TO COMMUNICATE?" ALTHOUGH I DO NOT LIKE TO DISAGREE WITH THIS ILLUSTRIOUS YANKEE, I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT HE LIVED IN A PERIOD BEFORE THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS REACHED THE LEVEL OF INTENSITY IT HAS TODAY. IN OUR PRESENT-DAY WORLD, AND EVEN MORE IN THE FUTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS OF INSTANT COMMUNICATION HAVE INCREASED OUR IMPACT AND INFLUENCE ON ONE ANOTHER TO A LEVEL THAT THOREAU, FOR ALL HIS FORESIGHT AND THOUGHTFULNESS, COULD NOT HAVE IMAGINED. IN OUR TIME, NOT ONLY DO TEXAS AND MAINE HAVE IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR ONE ANOTHER, BUT THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA SERVES TO MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD KIN, AND EVENTS AND ISSUES THAT AFFECT ONE PLACE HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ALL ALONG THE LINE. THE GRAY WHALES THAT SUMMER IN THE ARCTIC REGIONS GIVE A THRILL TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL AREAS AS THEY PASS TO THEIR BREEDING GROUNDS IN BAJA CALIFORNIA. RIVERS THAT HAVE THEIR SOURCE DEEP WITHIN THE HEARTLAND OF THE UNITED STATES PROVIDE THEIR WATERS FOR THE IRRIGATION OF MEXICAN FARMLANDS ON THEIR WAY TO THE SEA. AND THE AIR CURRENTS THAT MAY CARRY POLLUTION OR CONTAMINATION DECLINE TO RESPECT NATIONAL BOUNDARIES.

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5. WHAT IMPRESSES ME IS NOT ONLY THE EXTENT OF MUTUAL DEPENDENCE THAT INSPIRES AND UNDERLIES OUR WORLD AS A WHOLE, BUT PARTICULARLY THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS THAT SHARE A LONG LAND BORDER. NO NATION, LIKE THE "NO MAN" IMMORTALIZED BY JOHN DONNE, CAN IN OUR TIME BE AN ISLAND UNTO ITSELF, OR CAN FEEL THAT THE PROBLEMS OF ITS NEIGHBOR HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. IT IS, I BELIEVE, TO OUR COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES THAT WE OWE THE CREATION, AND THE SUCCESS, OF OUR BILATERAL CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM. NEITHER COUNTRY CAN AFFORD TO IGNORE THE OTHER, NOR PRETEND THAT WE CAN EACH GO OUR OWN WAY WITHOUT KNOWING OR CARING WHAT THE EFFECTS OF OUR ACTIONS ARE ON THOSE WHO LIVE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A BOUNDARY LINE. THE TWO ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN OUR INTERDEPENDENCE ARE, AS I SEE THEM, OUR ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND THE PRESENCE OF A RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL, THE FEELING THAT THE OTHER PERSON ALSO IS TRYING TO DO HIS BEST. WE HAVE, IN THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM, SHOWN THAT WE CAN EXCHANGE IDEAS AND LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER'S POINT OF VIEW, AND THAT IF WE CANNOT IMMEDIATELY SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM, WE CAN WHITTLE AWAY AT THEM AND MAKE THEM

EASIER TO LIVE WITH. AS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOOD WILL,
I BELIEVE THAT IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS IT IS SUBSTANTIAL IF
NOT UNIVERSAL. THERE ARE PERSONS AND GROUPS WHO THINK
IT IS DESIRABLE TO CREATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUN-
TRIES, RATHER THAN TO WORK TOWARD CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS.
THERE ARE ALWAYS THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO PUT THE ACCENT ON THE
BIZARRE, THE DESTRUCTIVE AND THE MALICIOUS, NOT REALIZING
THAT THE MONSTER THEY CREATE IS ANXIOUS TO SWALLOW THEM
UP.

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9555

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6. I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO A PERSON WHO I
THINK UNDERSTANDS THE MEANING OF INTERDEPENDENCE BOTH
INTELLECTUALLY AND SPIRITUALLY: TO THE TALENTED AND DEDI-
CATED LEADER OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES, PRESIDENT
JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO; TO THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO; AND TO
THE CONTINUANCE OF MEXICAN-UNITED STATES FRIENDSHIP, IN
THE SPIRIT OF OUR RECOGNIZED INTERDEPENDENCE. END
QUOTE. LUCEY

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